

Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Gruene Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Protection Project, New Braunfels, Texas, FEMA-DR-1425-TX.

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in funding the construction of a flood barrier wall to protect the Gruene Road Wastewater Treatment Plant from periodic flooding. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The EA was released for public comment on October 15, 2003. No comments from the public were received during the 30-day comment period, therefore, the EA has been finalized and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been made. This announcement also provides public notice for work within the regulated floodplain, in accordance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and 44 CFR Part 9.12. No practicable alternatives were identified to meet the community's needs that do not involve work in the 100-year floodplain.

The reasons for the decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are as follows:

1. No significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, wetlands, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State-and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), safety, hazardous materials and waste, or cultural resources; no disproportionately high or adverse effects on minority or low-income populations would occur, and;
2. The project is necessary to meet the needs of the citizens of the existing local community.

No further environmental review of this project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of FEMA funds. Copies of the final EA and FONSI can be obtained by contacting: Donald R. Fairley, REM, FEMA Regional Environmental Officer, 800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76201-3698, or at Donald.Fairley@dhs.gov. The final EA and FONSI are also available on the World Wide Web on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>.